



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Kingston City Hall, Date: April 12, 2016
6:30-8:30pm

Council Members Elizabeth Broad, Lorraine Farina (pending), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson Kevin McEvoy (Secretary) Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

Guests: Alanna Henneberry (Ulster County Dept of the Environment), Krista Micelli (CAC NRI Intern), Amanda Lavallo (Ulster County Dept of the Environment), Kevin Bryant (City of Kingston Corporation Counsel)

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The meeting was called to order at 6:37 by the Chairperson at which time the CAC welcomed the guests. There was no public comment at this time.
- II. **Review and Approval March 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the minutes to the March meeting as amended were unanimously approved by the council members present.
- III. **Old Business**
 1. **Natural Resources Inventory**
 - i. **Krista Micelli (Spring NRI Intern) mapping update:** Krista indicated that the mapping is almost done. Last week we reviewed prints of maps. A few edits are still necessary including the Community Gardens for example. Krista has been ground truthing the maps. Julie, Kevin, Matt Akin and Krista did a GPS field trip recently to Hasbrouck Park to map trails. Krista has been doing mapping of Forsyth Park weather permitting.
 - ii. **Scenic Resources Review:** Krista discussed her scenic resource survey which included Tompkins County, Wallkill Valley Land Trust and Shawangunk Mountains Regional Partnership reviewing (a) how such survey was created whether by a governmental agency, grant funded non profit or otherwise, (b) the reason for scenic resource protection, (c) terminology, (d) document content with comments on each document. Amanda discussed Scenic Hudson viewshed mapping and recommended contacting Andrew Meyer, Shoreline Conservation Specialist at DEC/HREP who has worked on viewshed matters. We further discussed the possibilities of Greenway funding for additional viewshed mapping.
 - iii. **Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) NRI grant update:** Julie has reviewed the NRI grant status with Kristen Wilson and Brenna Robinson of the Office of Economic and Community Development and specifics on how a consultant can be selected to carry out the scope of work for the NRI grant, whether by Request for Proposals or Request for Quotes.
 2. **Wood Burning/Air Quality Committee Discussion:** Lorraine reviewed her research as referenced in the below links discussing public health and environmental impacts of wood smoke. She noted chemical such as benzene contained in wood smoke and bans on wood burning in fireplaces or stoves in San Francisco and New York City. A discussion ensued regarding interpretation of the Kingston codes and having Joe Safford and/or Tom Tiano from Building Safety return to discuss wood smoke again. Lynn discussed education and outreach as well as enforcement practices as specific topics for additional review. Lorraine discussed whether wood should be considered a renewable energy resource. Amanda discussed difficulties and practical issues with adopting a NYC style ban at this time. Betta brought up the carbon footprint issue mentioning that such a ban on wood burning could have the adverse affect of increasing fossil fuel consumption which could in turn lead to increased fracking and pipeline construction. Julie reviewed pertinent sections of the Climate Action Plan including data on how many households in Kingston use wood as their primary heating source, which in 2010 was about 72. Emilie discussed wood smoke as a source of air pollution in third world countries and efforts to design better cooking stoves, as well as other air pollution issues such as idling of vehicles. Casey mentioned carbon

sequestration by trees and public health issues of wood smoke there was general consensus without any motion made or resolution presented, that a community educational approach to all sources of air pollution would be useful.

a. NYC Ban on wood burning:

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1709613&GUID=AD9DEF6D-EF0C-455A-BF53-0639A32F2E0D&Options=ID|Text|&Search=fireplace>

b. ALA Effects of wood smoke on Health:

<http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/indoor/indoor-air-pollutants/residential-wood-burning.html>

c. San Francisco Ban on wood burning:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_29002364/ban-wood-burning-heating-devices-considered-new-bay

d. EPA new guidelines for regulation of wood burning:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/03/16/2015-03733/standards-of-performance-for-new-residential-wood-heaters-new-residential-hydronic-heaters-and>

e. Utah Physicians "17 Reasons to Ban Wood burning":

http://www.ehhi.org/woodsmoke/utah_17reasons_0115.shtml

f. Kingston Code 360, sections 135.1, 135.2, and 135.4:

<http://ecode360.com/6723277>

g. NYS DEC Open Burning Regulation:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I4e8f29f6cd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I4e8f29f6cd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

h. Wood Smoke and Climate Change: Carbon Neutrality

http://woodsmokefacts.com/resources/WS_ClimateChange.html

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/03/proposal-define-wood-burning-carbon-neutral-fuels-debate>

IV. New Business

1. **Role of the UC Environmental Management Council (EMC):** Amanda discussed the EMC, Emilie's history of involvement, the new chairperson, the council's role with supporting town conservation and environmental councils and its advisory role to the Ulster County Legislature. Amanda asked the CAC to fill out an Ulster County Municipal Environmental Survey by May 1. The survey will inform the EMC in their strategic planning on how to better support to municipalities.
2. **Joint Meeting with Tree Commission- Action/Next Steps:** Two presentations at the March 31 meeting, by George Profous and Simon Gruber respectively, and grant opportunities for street inventories were discussed. The tree mapping program called iTree is an inventory tool was mentioned as well as draft sidewalk and street tree standards, which included a discussion structural soil, which are used in street tree installations. It was noted that the Mayor has assigned the Planning Director the task of revising tree ordinance (see minutes of 01/12/16).
3. **Smorgasburg Site Plan Review:** Kevin reported on the April 11th site visit to the Hutton Brickyard to walk the site proposed for Smorgasburg indicating that neither the Planning Board nor the Heritage Area Commission members present saw significant environmental impacts with the proposed short term Special Use Permit. The applicants appear to have addressed the negative impacts associated with the previous Sailors Cove project in the short term as well as previously identified site constraints such as Davis' Sedge, wetlands, steep terrain habitat areas, archeology, overhead utilities lines, Indiana bat, submerged aquatic vegetation beds and included positive features such as minimal impervious surfaces, limited lighting, storm water retention basins and bioswales. Council members discussed the need to provide alternatives to private vehicles including the use of Citibus.
Julie will send the Planning Dept a letter suggesting future adaptive reuse of historic resources, electric charging stations, onsite composting and additional green infrastructure.
4. **Kingston Meadows Site Plan Review:** The matter was removed from the Planning Board agenda on April 11th. Kevin had sent to the CAC prior to the meeting, a previous history of the project, composed of Planning Board Minutes from the late 2010-2012 period together with a site visit report from a former CAC member regarding serious flooding noted at the site in March 2011. Casey reported on the March planning board meeting. Since it appears that most if

not all of the issues from the 2012 CAC review remain in effect, Julie will send a letter restating the objections together with any new information that becomes available.

V. **Announcements/Communications/Events**

1. **Kingston Earth Fair and Expo, Sat April 23:** Julie reviewed the activities planned and distributed a handout. Krista will be exhibiting the NRI maps. See link below:
www.kingston-ny.gov/EarthExpo
2. **Cary Institute Forum on Future of Oak Forests, Sat May 7:** Cary Institute will conduct a forum on oak forests on May 7th. See link below:
<http://www.caryinstitute.org/events/future-oak-forests>
3. **Kingston Clean Sweep and Riverkeeper Sweep, Sat May 7:** Both events are to held on May 7th. See links below:
<http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/events/rvk-events/5th-annual-riverkeeper-sweep/?gclid=CMebrYLWymwCFQFkhgod93kB9g>
<http://www.kingstonhappenings.org/events/kingston-clean-sweep-kingston-corridor/>

VI. **Reports/Updates**

1. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force** (Lorraine Farina): Lorraine has provided her notes from the March 10th meeting attended by Kristen Wilson, Gabrielle Weiss (Landscape architect/interm) who is drafting proposed sidewalk standards, Brian Slack (Ulster County), George Profous (DEC Urban Forestry) and Ralph Swenson (City Engineer). Part of Gabrielle's work has been to draft a new code/guidelines regarding sidewalk care and installation, as well as an implementation mechanism for enforcement of the code.
2. **Planning Board Liaison** (Casey Schwarz): See Above under New Business Items #3 (Smorgasburg/Hutton Brick Yard) and #4 (Kingston Meadows).
3. **Public Safety Liaison** (Lynn Johnson): O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities membership has been brought to the Common Council from the Public Safety Committee and passed by the Common Council as Resolution #96 of 2016.
4. **Climate Smart Kingston** (Kristina Virgil/Julie Noble): Julie reported that the first meeting was held on March 30 and that the 4th Wednesday will be the meeting time for the present.
5. **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee** (Betta Broad): Betta reported on the recent solar event in Rosendale and further reported that Solarize Saugerties is a countywide initiative. Azriel Alleyne is working on community solar. Aggregate buying for community LED lighting was also mentioned.
6. **Ulster County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission** (Julie Noble): Julie discussed capacity issues at Seneca Meadows facility. Different strategies for sorting and recycling are being examined. The Herkimer recycling facility and Seneca Meadows landfill will be visited shortly.
7. **Kingston's Environmental Program** (Julie Noble) : Kaycee Keegan Twombly is now employed at Parks & Recreation in the environmental program as an educator
8. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group** (Julie Noble): The HREP (Hudson River Estuary Program) Grant through the City with partner which is part of the same grant stream as the NRI grant will cover convening Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group assist Kingston and other communities in implementing the recommendations in sea-level rise task forces' reports. Julie attended a meeting with the Mayor and Comptroller on grant specifics.

- VII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present unanimously adjourned at 8:57PM.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.